

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE
UNIVERSITY SENATE JANUARY 12, 1968

The University Senate met at 2:10 pm, Friday, January 12, 1968, sixth floor, Library, President Elliott presiding.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as distributed.

In reporting action taken by the Executive Committee, Professor Wood, Chairman, commenced by reading to the Senate a letter to President Elliott, dated November 29, 1967, in which the committee endorsed unanimously the appointment of Mr. William P. Smith, Director of Student Services, and proposing that "this office be put at the vice-presidential level."

Professor Wood also read a report passed unanimously by the Executive Committee at its meeting on January 5, recommending to the President the restoration of an "open campus policy" at this University:

In light of events occurring subsequent to the action taken by the University Senate December 8, 1967, including the joint policy statement issued by Attorney General Ramsey Clark and Lieutenant General Hershey on December 9, 1967, and the letter of clarification from the Special Assistant to the President, Joseph A. Califano, Jr., to the President of Yale University dated December 26, 1967, and its dissemination to four thousand local draft boards, the Executive Committee of the Senate recommends to the President that the University restore its "open campus" policy by withdrawing its ban on military recruiting, and that such policy be continued so long as the Selective Service System is operated in such a way as not to impair the legitimate right of students to protest.

President Elliott asked whether there was to be a discussion of the above action. There being none, the Chairman proceeded to the next report of the Executive Committee.

Professor Wood reported that a special meeting of the Executive Committee had been called immediately prior to the Senate meeting, to consider action to be taken on a memorandum received from Dean Calvin D. Linton, Columbian College of Arts and Sciences, regarding a possible violation of the requirements of the CODE AND ORDINANCES GOVERNING ACADEMIC PERSONNEL OF THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY, by Professor Patrick Gallagher, Department of Anthropology, by his stated intentions to "report a meaningless grade of A for every student registered in the course regardless of that student's actual level of academic performance, and his further intention to report meaningless grades of F for every student in his upper division course Anthropology 153."

Professor Wood spoke of the Senate's responsibility under the CODE now to elect an ad hoc committee to study the matter. He pointed out the fact that this committee would not be a hearing committee. He said that the committee had the responsibility to attempt to settle the matter without formal hearings, and moved the nomination of the following persons with the proviso that the Executive Committee be given the authority to name a

replacement for any one who may be unable or unwilling to serve:

Professor John W. Brewer	Professor Bernard I. Levy
Professor Robert G. Jones	Professor Carl O. McDaniels
Professor David E. Seidelson	Professor Raymond R. Fox

In the event the committee found it was unable to negotiate a settlement, the matter would be referred to the Professional Ethics and Academic Freedom Committee.

The President asked whether there were nominations from the floor, and hearing none, moved the nominations closed. By voice vote the above committee was elected unanimously.

Professor Heller questioned the "haste" of the Senate in taking this action "if we can't actually come up with a situation where the violation of the CODE has actually occurred."

Dr. Bright replied that he felt that "action has already occurred when a professor states to his class that a final examination is not going to be required . . . they will be given a meaningless and capricious grade. . . the students are now on notice they have no requirement to attend the final examination."

Professor Willson stated that he thought "this is a matter of interpreting the CODE. I don't think of it as an instrument only invoked at the last moment. . ." He further said that he felt that steps could possibly be taken early to attempt to get peaceful resolutions, and "I hope it will work to everyone's advantage."

Professor Allen said that he believed the CODE anticipated amicable resolution of the problem, and cited Article A.2. of the CODE which states: (page 22)

If a satisfactory adjustment does not result from informal personal consultation and conference, the matter, in writing, shall be referred by the interested parties to the University Senate through the Executive Committee.

He further said that he felt it was mandatory to take the action recommended by the Executive Committee in view of the receipt of the letter from Dean Linton.

Professor Perros agreed that Dean Linton's letter required action on the part of the Senate, and pointed out that at the meeting of the Columbian College in December, the question of grades was raised, that Professor Gallagher was named temporary chairman of a committee charged with the responsibility of studying the grading system. However, he said "he has already committed an action which is not in good faith, since he was charged with this responsibility. Professor Gallagher reached his conclusions without bringing them to the Columbian College."

Professor Schlagel agreed with Dr. Bright and Professor Willson that everything reasonable should be done to prevent Professor Gallagher's committing an act in violation of the CODE, and that perhaps this committee would be effective to that end.

Professor Lewis expressed the belief that an act had been committed -- that students had stated that they were counting on a grade of A in the course, and if they were denied the A they had been promised it would be an injustice to that group.

After further discussion to the question, President Elliott pointed out that because there was no motion on the floor the rules were being overlooked by carrying on a debate. He suggested that "we should not over-do this kind of activity," and said he would entertain a motion if there was one forthcoming. Hearing none, the President moved on to the next item on the Agenda.

As indicated by Item 4 of the Agenda, Professor Wood announced the nomination of Professor Perros to the Senate's Committee on Athletics, by the Executive Committee. In making the announcement Professor Wood noted that Professor Perros had been chairman of the no longer existent University Committee on Athletics for a number of years and his presence on the Senate's committee would be valuable. Professor Stromsen seconded, the vote was called and Professor Perros was elected to the committee unanimously.

With regard to Item 5 on the Agenda, Professor Wood stated that since Professor David Sharpe would be on a leave of absence it would be necessary for a replacement to be elected as chairman of the Committee on Administrative Matters as they Affect the Faculty, and submitted for the Executive Committee, the name of Professor Robert E. Cronin as Acting Chairman of the committee to fulfill the unexpired term of Professor Sharpe. Professor Brewer seconded, the vote was called and Professor Cronin was elected unanimously.

As provided by Item 6 of the Agenda, Professor Boswell presented an interim report of the Public Ceremonies Committee. The report was accepted and has been placed on file with the minutes of the Senate. *(See Interim Report Attached)*

President Elliott then asked whether there were statements by members of the Senate or visitors, as provided by Item 7 of the Agenda. Professor Hill, Chairman of the Student Relationships Committee was recognized by the Chair, and his statement is quoted below:

As some of you know, President Elliott has decided not to re-appoint the University Committee on Student Life.

Because of this decision, some of the functions of the University committee will devolve shortly on the Senate's Committee on Student Relationships. Certain other functions will go to a Student Court.

In short, our Senate Committee will shortly become the part heir to an empire whose bounds have never quite been defined.

Over the next few months, these two committees will be working out - with some degree of precision - the enlarged role which one of them (the Senate Committee) will play in the future.

As chairman of both these committees, I can say with certainty that these next few months will be a time of very delicate negotiation. At the end of it, one committee will have died after more than 35 years of existence, and the other committee (the Senate's committee) will have acquired certain "powers" - and structural peculiarities which you will be asked to approve.

Let me say that I want the President's wish in this matter to succeed. But neither he, nor I, nor any of us, can foresee precisely what the new dispensation will be. When the time comes for this body to give its approval, it is important that all of us be well informed as to what has transpired, and why. For that reason I ask that any of you who foresee disagreement or objection to attend the meetings of either or both committees when they discuss this matter. The two committees will meet separately. They will also, no doubt, meet jointly. I will see to it that each of you is notified of these meetings, times and places - so that when the critical moment arrives for your final decision, it will be a well-considered one.

Let me broach two highly controversial details that are bound to arise.

One will be the matter of committee membership. Remember, now, that in the demise of the Student Life Committee, the Student Government will be losing an integral member. For more than 35 years the SLC has given very forceful advice to the Student Council. Remember, too, that the SLC has always had equal student-faculty membership (or nearly equal). Considering what the Student Government is being deprived of, it is almost certain that the Senate Committee which replaces Student Life will have to be re-structured to admit of this same equality of student and faculty membership.

If this prospect alarms you, let me simply note that in 2½ years of chairing the Student Life Committee--and after perhaps a hundred or more divisions in balloting--only TWICE have all students and all faculty lined up on opposing sides. And insofar as I can remember, on neither occasion was the issue one of faculty vs. student interest. The division simply happened that way. Let me add that the most characteristic criticism I have ever heard leveled at the Student Life Committee was that "the Committee seems to be preoccupied with consensus." And so, it has always been. Let me assure you, then, that if and when you are asked to approve equality of student membership on this Senate Committee, you will not be opening the door to "Student Power."

The other highly controversial change deals with "summary" quality of the advices which the Senate Committee will give in the student sector.

Under some circumstances, it will be imperative that the Committee have "the final voice." Its advice may be necessary to meet an urgent crisis in some area of student life. It may be the sort of advice that must be acted upon tomorrow, or next week, by Student Council, or by some extra-curricular organization. In such cases, it will have to be understood that the Committee's decision cannot be properly appealed to the parent body without great disruption in the student sector.

Obviously, the areas in which the Committee may act with finality must be carefully defined. An effort must be made to reconcile the immediate needs of Student Government, with the Committee's obligations to the Senate. By no means will the Senate Committee

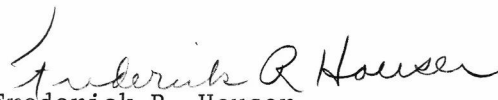
become autonomous. It will still bring recommendations to the Senate, probably more recommendations than ever before.

In closing, let me make a plea for your forbearance, your understanding, and your goodwill. And let me urge you again to attend the meetings of the committees where the problems of committee succession will be worked out.

President Elliott expressed his personal and official appreciation to the chairmen and members of the Student Life Committee for the outstanding service they have rendered over the years. He stated that this action illustrates the culmination of the suggestion he made to the Chairman of the Executive Committee two years ago. At that time he requested that all of the administrative committees of the University be abolished, and their functions be assumed by appropriate committees of the Senate. The President said that the University Senate cannot come into its full responsibility in policy making while there are parallel committees appointed by and responsible to the President, since in many cases there are overlapping areas of responsibility. He further said this is in keeping with recommendations of the Middle States Commission, when they pointed out that the University Senate should become increasingly active in the molding of University policies.

Professor Brewer expressed himself as being enthusiastic about the general tendency of combining Senate committees with other administrative committees. He further said "I have no general concern about the so-called danger of 'student power,' nor am I in the least concerned about the presence of students on the Senate Committees. However, I think we should keep in mind the fact that Senate committees represent a Faculty Senate, and that in consequence the faculty is charged with a larger responsibility for deliberations and conclusions. The term 'University Senate' is perhaps something of a misnomer. Perhaps in retrospect it would have been better to have named this body the 'Faculty Senate' since its function is primarily to represent the faculty of the University."

President Elliott invited further statements from members or visitors. None were forthcoming and the meeting adjourned at 3:03 pm.


Frederick R. Houser
Secretary

INTERIM REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON
PUBLIC CEREMONIES

Last Spring the Senate Committee on Public Ceremonies was entrusted with two jobs for the coming year: (1) To make nominations to the President for the position of University Marshal which will become vacant with the retirement of Dr. Latimer, and (2) to establish a procedure by which nominations for honors from The University would be considered by representatives of the faculty. Included in the term "university honors" are honorary degrees, commencement speakers, and such other honors as The University should confer.

During the summer, the committee chairman met with the President, and with the University Historian, Dean Kayser, to get an understanding of how the University Marshal functions. Then all Deans were asked for nominations for the position. At the first meeting of the Committee, on September 15, 1967, each committee member agreed to check with some of those persons who had been recommended, and also to canvass recommendations from other faculty members. At the following committee meeting on September 22, the obvious General Shermans had been removed from consideration, and the committee approved a list of five names for nomination to President Elliott.

At the request of President Elliott, the Committee met with him on October 11, to consider nominations for honorary degrees for the Winter Convocation. On the recommendation of the faculty of the School of Medicine, he submitted the name of Dr. Vincent Du Vigneaud who will be the Guest Speaker at the Medical Student Science Day. Among other things, Dr. Du Vigneaud was Professor and Chairman of the Department of Biochemistry at George Washington from 1932 to 1938, and is a Nobel Prize winner. The Committee unanimously endorsed Dr. Du Vigneaud.

At meetings on October 25, and November 8, the Committee came to an agreement on a procedure to be followed in making nominations for University honors. Three categories were established for consideration of nominations: (1) Intellectual excellence, (2) outstanding public service, and (3) special service to the University. The University Marshal will function as Permanent Secretary of the Committee, and will receive all nominations. The Committee will meet in the Fall and Spring to consider such nominations as have been made in the interval, and make recommendations on behalf of the faculty to the President for transmittal to the Board of Trustees.

After our Spring, 1968, meeting, it is expected we will discover some things about this process we have not anticipated.

Submitted for the Committee
John G. Boswell, Chairman
January 12, 1968


THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY
Washington, D. C.

November 29, 1967

The University Senate

The University Senate will meet at 2:10 pm, Friday, December 8, 1967, in The Faculty Conference Room, sixth floor, Lisner Library.

- Agenda:
- 1) Minutes of previous meeting.
 - 2) Announcements.
 - 3) Report on faculty organization at The Catholic University of America, Professor Malcolm Henderson.
 - 4) Report with Resolutions from the Committee on Student Relationships (see attached).
 - 5) Adjournment.


Frederick R. Houser
Secretary